



# THE PATIENTS

# THE PATIENTS

RUN TIME: 16mins 24secs (incl. credits)

CAMERA: ARRI ALEXA MINI

SOUND: 5.1 SURROUND

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

YEAR: 2019

DIRECTOR/WRITER: Tess Paras

E-MAIL: [saraproductions@gmail.com](mailto:saraproductions@gmail.com)

INSTAGRAM: [@thepatientsfilm](https://www.instagram.com/thepatientsfilm)

TWITTER: [@patientsfilm](https://twitter.com/patientsfilm)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/ThePatientsShortFilm](https://www.facebook.com/ThePatientsShortFilm)

WEBSITE: [www.saraproductions.com](http://www.saraproductions.com)



## LOGLINE

How do you explain #MeToo to your immigrant parents? “The Patients” explores the modern hashtag age with a focus on a Filipino-American family as they navigate trauma and reveal a clash of values.

## SYNOPSIS

After a “bad fight” with her boyfriend, Regina Santos (a low-achieving woman in her 30’s) ends up in the ER where her Dad works as a doctor. Upon hearing the news, her accomplished older brother, Steven, and supermom older sister, Maryann, descend upon the hospital to offer help, but their actions only push Regina away. In her state, all Regina wants is to see her mom for comfort. But, her mother Rose avoids her; unable to cope with the shame of the event. Regina seeks surprising virtual help that opens up her eyes to her situation, empowering her and her family to communicate and support one another in their own unique way.



Still from *The Patients* / Jon Jon briones and Josephine De Jesus



Still from *The Patients* / Tess Paras



Still from *The Patients* / Tess Paras and Lilan Bowden

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Within minutes after posting, the phone rang. It was my mom. “What’s a #MeToo?” she said, in her Filipino accent. My mouth went dry. I could post about the most traumatic event in my personal history for *everyone in the world to see*, but I could barely talk about it with the woman who birthed me? With my family? What about these relationships makes this so difficult? Challenged by the nuances of those feelings, I decided to write a film about it.

The Patients is borrowed from intersections of my own life. I’m a Filipina-American daughter of immigrant doctors. I’m the youngest, third child who sometimes inappropriately (but mostly adaptively) jokes her way through discomfort. I’m also sexual assault and intimate partner violence survivor... emphasis on *survivor*.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In our #MeToo storytelling of victim to survivor, often what we're not talking about is the stuff in the middle. I know from personal experience that stories of survival don't just happen. No one just overcomes. 'The Patients' is about the stuff in the middle — It's about opening up difficult conversations with your loved ones. It's about how shock and trauma can present in unexpected ways. It's about asking for and offering help. It's about how a culture clash presents itself within one's own family.

If you know Filipinos, you know that family is priority one. If your family is anything like mine, we're all up in each other's business yet, at the same time, avoidant of conflict. I was inspired to create The Patients because that's a unique and largely unseen family dynamic to explore, especially in times of trauma and healing.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

We experienced a surge of support during production of this film. My stellar cast and inclusive crew - women, people of color, immigrants, and folks identifying as LGBTQIA - assembled quickly. *The Patients* was successfully crowdfunded beyond our goal and we received an influx of messages sharing personal connections to the film. Whether it be a character or a plot detail, the resonance proved real.

I'm grateful for everyone who has supported this film thus far and I'm committed to sharing it with more audiences. My mission for this film is to help survivors begin those tough conversations with their families, in hopes that we can listen to our loved ones and heal... because, chances are there's a survivor in your family who needs the support.

- *Tess Paras*

# THE PATIENTS - CAST



Still from *The Patients* / Jon Jon Briones, Eugene Cordero, Melody Butiu, and Josephine De Jesus



## TESS PARAS / *Regina*

As an actress, Tess recently made her series regular debut as “Erin Chua” on the Amazon family comedy, *Just Add Magic: Mystery City*, after heavily recurring on the previous season of *Just Add Magic*. She is most recognized for her recurring role as “Jayma Chan” on the Emmy-award winning musical comedy *Crazy-Ex Girlfriend* (CW). She also played “Dana Tomas” on NBC’s hit drama, *Grimm* (introducing the first Filipino-American storyline on primetime television). Other notable TV credits include: *Take My Wife*, *Adam Ruins Everything*, *Girl Meets World*, *White Collar*, *Mulaney*, *Wilfred*, *Weeds*, and *The Good Wife*. Tess filmed a comedy pilot presentation for YouTubeRED entitled, “She Said Yes!” in the lead role opposite Margaret Cho. She also stars as in the independent feature, *The Blackout* (Dir. Daniela Dicarlo) currently on the festival circuit. Tess performs regularly with Quick and Funny Musicals! and the Asian AF Show at The Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) Theatre in Los Angeles. She graduated magna cum laude from New York University.



# JON JON BRIONES

## *Dr. Ramos*

Jon Jon Briones was born in Quezon City, Philippines as Ernesto Briones. He is world-renowned actor and singer, known for his brilliant performance in the original West End and Broadway revival casts of *Miss Saigon*. He has appeared in many roles on stage, television and in film, including: the Emmy award-winning series *The Assassination of Gianni Versace*, *Criminal Minds*, *Designated Survivor*, *American Horror Story: Apocalypse*, among others. He is currently in production for the new Ryan Murphy series, *Ratched* (coming soon to Netflix). Jon Jon has been married to actress/singer Megan Johnson Briones since 1996. They have two children who are also in the business, Isa and Teo, and they now reside in Los Angeles.



## MELODY BUTIU / *Mary*

Melody Butiu is honored to help tell the story of *The Patients*. Broadway: *Doctor Zhivago*. Off-Broadway: David Byrne's *Here Lies Love* (The Public Theater). Regional theatre includes: *M. Butterfly* (upcoming), *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow* (South Coast Rep), *Vietgone* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts), *Here Lies Love* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Wallis Annenberg), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Huntington Theatre), *Stage Kiss* and *Shipwrecked!* (Geffen Playhouse), *Helen* (Getty Villa), *A Perfect Wedding* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), *A Little Night Music* and *Golden Child* (East West Players), *Dogeaters* and *Boy* (La Jolla Playhouse). Film/TV credits include: *A Mother's Greatest Fear*, *Untold*, *Blood Ransom*, "The Kominsky Method," "NCIS: LA," "Kingdom," "Rizzoli & Isles," "Gotham," "NCIS" and "Modern Family." MFA: UC-San Diego. [melodybutiu.com](http://melodybutiu.com), Instagram: @mellowdeebiee



# EUGENE CORDERO

## *Steven*

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Eugene studied theater and improv in New York City. He performs regularly at the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre and has appeared in various shows such as: *Wrecked*, *I'm Sorry*, *The Good Place*, *Son of Zorn*, *Crazy Ex Girlfriend*, *Key & Peele*, and *The Kroll Show*. He is also the voice of Jamie, the mailman, on Cartoon Network's *Steven Universe*. His film credits include: *The Mule*, *Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates*, and *Kong: Skull Island*. He currently stars on the new comedy series, *Tacoma FD* (TruTV).



# JOSEPHINE DE JESUS

## *Rose*

Josephine is a San Francisco Bay area based actor, voice talent, script translator, and dubber for films and TV commercials. She has appeared in commercials and soap operas in the Philippines. Josephine is known for her standout performance in the acclaimed dark comedy indie-feature, *Bitter Melon* by filmmaker HP Mendoza. She is married to Jun de Jesus, a former actor-singer in Manila who fronts a live band that plays in the Bay Area. She is thrilled to be a part of The Patients cast.



# HANEEFAH WOOD

## *Dr. Johnson*

Haneefah Wood is a star of the stage and screen. Notable credits include: *One Day At A Time* (Netflix), *Baskets* (FX), *Zoe Ever After* (BET), and *GREASE LIVE!* Her Broadway credits include: *Rent*, *Avenue Q*, and *Brooklyn*.





# LILAN BOWDEN

## *Counselor*

Lilan is an actor/comedian who plays Bex on Disney Channel's Emmy nominated show "Andi Mack" (3 seasons/winner of GLAAD/nominated for Peabody Awards). Her credits also include Future Man, LOVE, Parks and Recreation, Lifeline (Youtube Red), and I Am Watching You (Lifetime). She is a trained sketch and improv performer from Upright Citizens Brigade Theater LA. House teams include Rococo (Harold/improv) and Bonafide (Maude/sketch). She has written and directed material for Funny or Die, Samsung's MILK app, and Casting Society of America with her writing and sketch comedy partner Wilder Smith, and continues to perform live under their two person group "Lilan and Wilder."



## JAKE CHOI / *Zack* (voiceover)

Jake is best known for his role as series regular “Miggy” on the hit ABC comedy *Single Parents*. He previously starred in the award-winning LGBTQ independent film, *Front Cover*. Other notable credits include: *Broad City*, *Younger*, *Hawaii 5-0* and HBO’s *Succession*.

# PRODUCTION BIOS



Behind the Scenes Still from *The Patients* / Dir. Tess Paras and Cinematographer Ludovica Isidori



# TESS PARAS

## WRITER/DIRECTOR

Tess Paras makes her directorial debut with *The Patients* after years as an actress, producer, and sketch comedy director. She has just come off her role as Associate Director of the 2020 CBS Showcase. As an alumni of the program, Tess performed and wrote in 2014 and has returned for the second year in a row as a leader on the creative team for the fast-paced comedy variety show that has become an industry standard. Tess was previously a producer for Fusion's *F-Comedy*, a joint venture between Disney/ABC Television and Univision, targeting millennials. Tess is known for writing political and musical satire, including the viral shorts - "Trumping Makeup Tutorial," "Typecast" and "What If Catcalls Were Cheeseburgers?" She is a faculty member at Los Angeles' feminist, inclusive comedy theatre, *The Ruby* and has also taught at the *Fallout Comedy Theatre* in Austin, TX. She has been profiled by *Good Morning America*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *Glamour Magazine* for her activism in the AAPI arts community. Tess Paras is represented by Gersh (Talent & Literary) and Haven Entertainment. [www.tessparas.com](http://www.tessparas.com)



# LUDOVICA ISIDORI CINEMATOGRAPHER

Ludovica Isidori is an Italian cinematographer with an MFA in Cinematography from the American Film Institute. With a background in fashion photography, she has a fierce sense of style and an eye for beautiful imagery that she uses to serve her storytelling. Ludovica Isidori was selected as one of the 30 filmmakers of Project Involve and her films have screened around the world, from Cannes to Shanghai, from SXSW to the HBO short film competition. Between 2017 and 2018, Ludovica received three prizes for best cinematography, for her shorts Intercept (Dir. Jackie Stone) and Peggie, co-created with Rosario Capozzolo. For more about Ludo, check out [www.ludovicaisidori.com](http://www.ludovicaisidori.com)



## TERESA LEE

### LINE PRODUCER

Teresa Lee is a stand-up comedian. She's been featured on NBC Asian America and was a semi-finalist on Standup NBC. She has played in festivals including the Laughing Skull Festival, Women in Comedy Festival, Bird City Comedy Festival, Brooklyn Comedy Festival, and The Comedy Comedy Festival. She has also performed at notable venues and shows such as The Knitting Factory in Brooklyn, Upright Citizen's Brigade, The Punchline in SF, The Comedy Store Main Room, Laugh Factory Chicago and more. Teresa has written comedy for Funny Or Die, College Humor 2, Reductress, and Splitsider. She graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts where she received her BFA in Dramatic Writing, with a double major in French and a minor in Pre-Business Studies from Stern Business School, and currently lives in LA with a rescue dog that can see ghosts.



## LAKAN DE LEON

### EDITOR & VFX

Lakan DeLeon is an expert in creative and online editing for television, feature films and commercials. He is a senior editor at Digital Film Tree and has served many roles at DFT since 2002. Lakan has worked on countless hours of programming over the years on shows such as Scrubs, Everybody Hates Chris, Cougartown, Angie Tribeca and Wrecked. Lakan has also edited creative projects, including the video game documentary Moral Combat and the screenwriter biopic Mardik: Baghdad to Hollywood. He is a Los Angeles native and a proud pinoy.

# THE PATIENTS - FULL CREDITS

## CAST

Regina Ramos

Dr. Ramos

Mary Ramos

Steven Ramos

Rose Ramos

Dr. Johnson

Counselor

Zack (Voice only)

Tess Paras

Jon Jon Briones

Melody Butiu

Eugene Cordero

Josephine De Jesus

Haneefah Wood

Lilan Bowden

Jake Choi

Background Performers

Iris Paras

Jewell Karinen

Angelo Gonzalez

Andy Bustillos

Stand In for Tess Paras

Iris Paras



# THE PATIENTS - FULL CREDITS (Continued)

Director	Tess Paras		
Director of Photography	Ludovica Isidori		
Writer & Executive Producer	Tess Paras	Production Coordinator	Christine Medrano
Line Producer	Teresa Lee	Key PA	Alyssa Harden
Art Director	Natalie Blake	PA	Lou Gonzalez
Key Makeup Artist	Vanessa Marie	PA	Andy Bustillos
Makeup Artist	Kodo Nishimura	Script Supervisor	Jason Gudasz
1st AC	Felipe Larrondo	Editor / Visual Effects	Lakan de Leon
Key Grip	Guy Pooles	Colorist	Henry Santos
Gaffer	Valentina Martinico		Chroma Hollywood
Swing	Oliver Lukacs	Post-Production Sound	Marissa Quintana
Sound Mixer	Josh Gerson		Racket Sound

# THE PATIENTS - FULL CREDITS

## (Continued)

“Dawn Of Innocence” & “Flying Over the Andes”

Written & Performed by Diego Rojas  
With additional scoring by Diego Rojas

“Love Yourself”

Written & Performed by AstraLogik  
Courtesy of AstraLogik

Publicity  
Still Photographer

After Bruce PR  
DarylJim Diaz

Associate Producers

The Hoang-Rappaport Family  
Randy Bautista  
Mae Lee & Julius Paras  
Rachel Bloom

# THE PATIENTS - SPECIAL THANKS

Mike Treanor

Celia Finklestein

Rebekka Johnson

Parvesh Cheena

Nico Santos

Reggie Lee

Cathy Shim

Daren Mooko

Evangeline Monroy

Alessandra Fritz

Kimee Balmilero

Ernie Sibal

Candice Dayoan

Kathria Tizon

Candice Yang

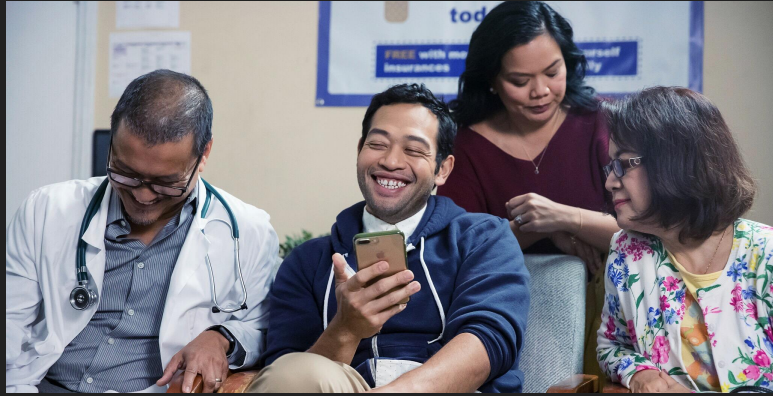
Nvisionate Studios

Mammoth Pictures

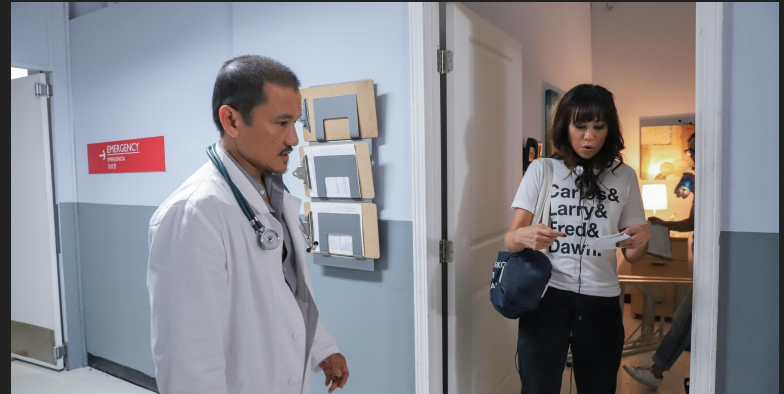
Achara Food Truck

Little Ongpin

The Filipino American National Historic Society (FANHS)



## BEHIND THE SCENES



# THE PATIENTS PRESS & PRAISE

*“Funny, smart and observant, Tess Paras is known not only as an actor—on programs like Just Add Magic, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend and Grimm—but also as a writer, producer and director whose videos and short films offer clever and memorable commentary on politics, racism and the patriarchy.”* - Ms. Magazine



Ms. Magazine - [The Feminist Lens: Tess Paras Talks #MeToo Movies and Inclusive Casting](#) (Sept. 2019)

Women and Hollywood - [Crowdfunding Picks](#) (Oct. 2018)

*In the Heart Stories* - [Profile of Director Tess Paras](#) (Oct. 2018)

Asienne Magazine - [Bravely Tackling the #MeToo Conversation Within a Filipino Family](#) (Dec. 2018)

# THE PATIENTS PRESS & PRAISE

*“As a psychologist, I am so happy to see how eloquently you touched upon such a serious and stigmatized topic in such a real and nuanced way. Every part of it was so real. I was on the edge of my seat to see where it would go. You touched upon topics that we all know exist, but that are so hard to describe. And now we have a visual for it all.”*

Keven L. Nadal, Ph.D.  
Professor of Psychology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
City University of NY



Director Tess Paras speaking on the keynote panel of the Asian American Psychologists Association (AAPA) Conference at San Diego State University



Still from *The Patients* / Josephine De Jesus and Tess Paras